

STATEMENT OF SENATOR JOHN McCAIN
CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
FULL COMMITTEE HEARING
ON SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE
SEPTEMBER 21, 2000

- C Earlier this year we examined the science behind global warming as a means of defining the issue of climate change. We followed that hearing with a discussion of the Climate Change Impact On the United States, the National Assessment Report. Today, we hope to examine a few of the many solutions or approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the suspected cause of global temperature increases.
- C I hope to have an open and honest discussion of these solutions so that the members of this Committee can be better informed on our policy options as we look to the future and address this very important issue. Today's discussion does not represent, nor should it be implied, the totality of solutions available. Today's discussion represents only a sampling of these solutions.
- C I am pleased to hear that several companies are taking voluntary actions to reduce emissions and become more efficient in their operations. I know that these efficiencies often lead to cost savings which further motivates their actions. Nevertheless, the reduced emissions are helping the environment.
- C These actions are leading some critics to claim that industry is doing more on a voluntary basis than Congress. If this is true than it's time that Congress steps up to the plate.
- C The Federal government will continue to support scientific research concerning climate change. However, we must depend on the industrial base of this country to implement these scientific

findings. I would hope that they would apply their ingenuity by using technologies to bring about a cleaner environment. I am pleased that our witnesses today represent those on the front line of industry implementing programs to reduce greenhouse gas emission.

C I am also interested in hearing about what else the government can do to improve the current situation or again, if anything at all actually should be done. Over the past two hearings, we have heard about the complexity of climate change and the difficulty of understanding the interaction between the atmosphere, oceans, and the land.

C I believe there are many questions yet to be answered. Many of these are further complicated by the mixing of politics and science. I hope to add some clarity to this situation by proposing an International commission of scientists to study climate change and to provide unbiased, sound scientific analysis to anyone in search of the facts on global warming. I plan to introduce legislation in the near future to this effect and hope that others will rally and support it to help bring mutual International understanding about this contentious issue.

C I welcome all of our witnesses here today.